

Story of Nels Otterson-February 1909

By Jim Strong

In an alcohol related incident, Nels Otterson was racing his horse up and down Lehi's Main Street, his favorite "woopen-up" cowboy past time. He was rowdy, drunk and rode his horse on the wooden sidewalks in front of the Elk(Log Cabin) Saloon.

Marshall Henry East ordered Otterson to dismount. Instead Otterson tried to run the Marshall down-big mistake. East drew his gun and shot Otterson from his saddle. He was picked up and carried to city hall where it was determined the bullet had entered his belly and exited through his back. A silk handkerchief was drawn through the wound to clean it out. Nels Otterson lived to become a town legend.